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ACTION EAP-01

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R 180230Z APR 95 FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9818 INFO AMCONSUL SHENYANG AMCONSUL SHANGHAI AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

AMCONSUL CHENGDU

BEIJING 011406

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PGOV, PHUM, CH, US TAGS:

SUBJECT: SURVEILLANCE ON DISSIDENTS UP A NOTCH; U.S.

BLAMED FOR SUPPORTING ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY

REF: (A) BEIJING 10194, (B) BEIJING 11024

- ENTIRE TEXT. 1.



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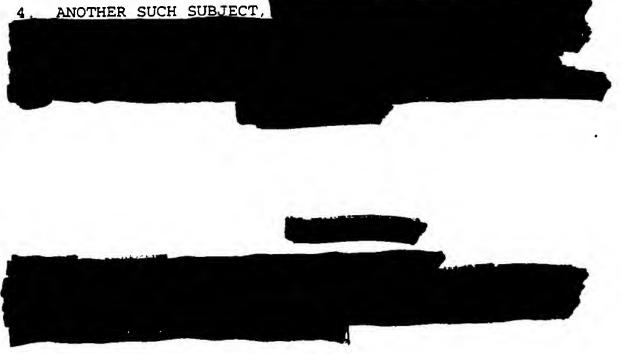
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2. SUMMARY: WHILE THE LEVEL OF SECURITY REMAINS WELL BELOW THAT OF LAST YEAR, AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE STEPPING UP SURVEILLANCE ON "SUSPECT ELEMENTS" AS THE SENSITIVE APRIL-JUNE ANNIVERSARY PERIOD PROGRESSES. SEPARATELY, PROPAGANDA AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY CHARGE THE UNITED STATES WITH CHANGING TACTICS IN SUPPORT OF DISSIDENTS, CLAIMING THE UNITED STATES NOW FOCUSES ON DISSEMINATING DISSIDENT VIEWS AND ON ENCOURAGING DISSIDENT EFFORTS TO ATTACK THE REGIME FROM WITHIN. END SUMMARY.

LOW-KEY WARNINGS ISSUED TO INTELLECTUALS

3. SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THEY HAVE RECENTLY COME UNDER TIGHTER SURVEILLANCE, WHICH THEY REGARD AS "DEFENSIVE" (DESIGNED TO PASSIVELY MONITOR ACTIVITY) RATHER THAN "AGGRESSIVE" (DESIGNED TO HARASS AND DISRUPT ACTIVITY).

(PROTECT), BELIEVES THAT THE WARNING TO "WATCH HIS STEP" GIVEN HIM BY A "WELL-MEANING FRIEND" WAS AN EFFORT TO ALERT HIM THAT AUTHORITIES HAD ENHANCED SECURITY DURING THE SENSITIVE APRIL-JUNE "ANNIVERSARY PERIOD" (REP A).



DISSENT IN CHINA -- AL AMERICAN HAND?

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5. WHILE NEITHER CONTACT ASCRIBED SURVEILLANCE TO FRIENDSHIPS WITH US, SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE RECENTLY MENTIONED TO US THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GETTING SPECIAL MENTION IN INTERNAL CIRCULATION DOCUMENTS.

WHO ENJOYS DEMONSTRATED ACCESS TO SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE IN THE SECURITY SERVICES, TOLD US THAT IN MARCH THE PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT ISSUED A CLASSIFIED

WHO ENJOYS DEMONSTRATED ACCESS TO SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE IN THE SECURITY SERVICES, TOLD US THAT IN MARCH THE PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT ISSUED A CLASSIFIED NOTICE TO MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA UNITS OUTLINING A NEW COVERT U.S. STRATEGY AGAINST CHINA. UNITS WERE TOLD THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO LONGER INTENT ON STIRRING DISSIDENTS TO ORGANIZE ANTI-REGIME ACTION, BUT RATHER WAS NOW ATTEMPTING -- WITH MONEY AND SUPPORT -- TO (A) ENCOURAGE DISSIDENTS TO RECORD AND WIDELY DISSEMINATE THEIR VIEWS, AND (B) ENTER BUSINESS, SEEK INFLUENCE, AND ATTACK THE SYSTEM FROM WITHIN.

COMMENT

6. WE CONTINUE TO SEE A LESS TENSE OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE "ANNIVERSARY SEASON" THAN IN 1994 VIS-A-VIS DISSIDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS LESSENED REGIME CONCERN OVER ORGANIZED DISSIDENT

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ACTIVITY. MORE TROUBLING IS THE FOCUS ON AMERICAN
SUPPORT FOR ANTI-REGIME EFFORTS. USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR ANTI-REGIME DISSIDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ALMOST
CERTAINLY SERVES AS THE BASIS OF THIS PROPAGANDA LINE.
THIS LINE ALSO TRACKS WITH BOTH PUBLIC AND CLASSIFIED
STATEMENTS BLAMING THE WEST, AND THE UNITED STATES IN
PARTICULAR, WITH ANTI-REGIME SUPPORT FOR ETHNIC AND
'RELIGIOUS SEPARATISTS (REP B). SUCH ARGUMENTS SERVE
REGIME INTERESTS BY EXPLAINING HOME-GROWN DISSENT IN
TERMS OF "FOREIGN HOSTILE FORCES," AND BY UNDERPINNING
THE LEADERSHIP'S CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES (A) FEARS
'CHINA, (B) WISHES TO "WESTERNIZE" CHINA, AND (C) IS
WORKING ACTIVELY TO KEEP CHINA WEAK. SILVER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification ***